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NEWS RELEASES

For Immediate Release: November 23, 2005

CY05-344

SASKATOON DESIGNATED AS A CULTURAL CAPITAL OF CANADA FOR 2006

Saskatoon was today designated as the 2006 Cultural Capital of Canada for communities with a population greater than 125,000, by the Department of Canadian Heritage. With this designation comes funding of 75 percent of total eligible costs of up to \$2 million, to celebrate and build a legacy for arts and culture in Saskatoon.

"We are thrilled that Saskatoon has been nationally recognized for our vibrant arts and culture community, especially in our centennial year of 2006," said Shannon Hanson, Community Initiatives Section Manager. "This is a testament to our residents' energy and creativity as we plan and work together to celebrate, and leave a legacy for our children and grandchildren," added Hanson.

The funding will enable the City to celebrate our centennial including the history of arts and culture in Saskatoon, assist arts and heritage organizations, as well as festivals, to profile and promote their programming and build a cultural legacy for the future.

The submission included four proposed legacy projects and two celebrations:

- Strategy for the development of Cultural Tourism
- Artists in the Community partnership project
- Building Arts and Cultural Bridges through an alliance of partners committed to continued coordination and cooperation
- Commissioning of additional outdoor art work for public display
- Centennial Celebrations on May 26 and 27
- Celebrating Our Heroes in October 2006

During its meeting on July 18, City Council approved the use of \$500,000 previously allocated through the Citizens Centennial Committee and the River Landing Landmark Commission, to support the proposal under the Cultural Capitals of Canada program.

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For more information:

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2008-04081/

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